

Perspective: *Life is like a landscape. You live in the midst of it, but can describe it only from the vantage point of distance.*
—Charles Augustus Lindbergh, American, aviator, 1902-74

April—the Month of Remembrance

Ha shoah—Holocaust—memory dim for some

The word "Shoah" is Hebrew for Holocaust. April of each year has been designated the "Month of Remembrance" and while it began as a one-day Jewish observance, Remembrance has been extended to all those who were victimized, persecuted or lost their lives during the period 1935 - 1945 under the terrors of the Holocaust.



In Israel, on April 12, 1951, the Knesset (Israel's parliament) proclaimed Yom Hashoah U'Mered HaGetaot (Holocaust

and Ghetto Revolt Remembrance Day) to be the 27th of Nissan. The name later became known as Yom Hashoah Ve Hagevurah (Devastation and Heroism Day) and even later simplified to Yom Hashoah. This

year, the 27th of Nissan falls on Tuesday, April 13, 1999. Although in the orthodox Jewish calendar it is a day of mourning within the traditionally happy month of Nissan, if it falls on a Friday or Saturday and interferes with Shabbat, then it is observed the following Sunday.

Since Yom Hashoah is a relatively new holiday, the observances are not yet standardized and there are no set rules or rituals. There are various beliefs about what is and is not appropriate on this day and many of them are conflicting. In general, Yom Hashoah is observed with candlelighting, speakers, poems, prayers, and singing. Often, six candles are lighted to represent the six million Jews who perished. Holocaust survivors speak about their experiences or share in the readings.

In Israel, Yom Hashoah is a national public holiday. At ten in the morning, a siren is sounded. Everyone stops what they are doing and stands in remembrance.

—Excerpted in part from *Jewish Literacy: the Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People, and Its History* by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1991.

Guest Commentary

Is patriotism a dead issue?

By David E. Smith

Why even bother to think about "Patriotism?" It's a dead issue isn't it? Or, if we take the concept and make it into another holiday, what's really important is... "Do we get the day off?"

I think it's really a military thing. The generation that came of age following the Great Depression understood it all too well. But that was a long time ago and outside of our present armed forces and their families, who even cares? How can we understand it today or feel the pride of the nation? The troubles we face as a country now are too far removed from those of half a century ago. Or are they? Let's refresh our memories.

Holocaust. Each April we have the opportunity to remember a particularly bleak time in world history. It is a month to recollect a despicable act of inhumanity driven by hatred in which millions of people's lives were uprooted, millions were persecuted, and millions died—people of all nationalities. It's also a time of recognition of the many individuals in the military who perished, or pushed themselves beyond the norm and became patriots or at the least patriotic. My father experienced the

holocaust first hand as a prisoner of war in World War II. He did not often discuss it. It was painful for him the rest of his life. He participated in the famous Battle of the Bulge. After weeks surrounded by enemy forces in the Ardennes Forest he was captured by German troops after his unit ran out of food and ammunition. He was interned in at least one death camp. It is not something he could talk about, but it influenced his values and actions to a degree we can hardly imagine. He was a man of drive and spirit. My Dad believed in truthfulness, in generosity, and in the cohesiveness of families. Behind it all was an even greater belief in America.

At this time in America, we are for the most part at peace. There is no major threat to the survival of this country nor to the lifestyle of its people. Support for defense and military spending have been in a long decline. Despite the poverty of large groups of people, as a nation we are a bit too comfortable worrying about our investments to be concerned with what's going on in the rest of the world. Television ratings and tabloid newspaper sales indicate that we're most focused on

Society: *In the 40's and 50's we had the all-encompassing Life magazine. Then ...People in the '70s. Things tightened up even more with Us. Next came Self. Somewhere there's got to be a magazine just for you: Fred Morgenstern Monthly. —Peter Yarrow, folk singer*

Teamwork...

Continued from page 2

The project manager is the team leader of the delivery effort, accountable for the success of the entire project to include technical details. He or she is not just a coordinator or reporter. Functional chiefs throughout the organization contribute technical oversight and help the corporate board coordinate resources among project teams. The IG's report notes that more can be done in leading and managing project teams.

The project manager is also responsible for the team's dialogue with the "customer." The team's goal is to satisfy the customer's needs, not just to answer requests. Where many projects are involved, a project manager may also serve as a program manager, assisting the customer in developing future projects and managing broader requirements. The IG report found great initiatives in this area but that not all Corps efforts are fully coordinated.

Embracing the project and program management approach to our work is essential if the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers is to remain the world's premier government provider of engineering and related services. This is especially so in an era of rapidly developing technologies, multiplying demands and limited government resources. Throughout the Corps, the IG found the application of these processes varied widely. They "did not see organizations practicing inconsistent processes out of resistance." Rather, they found districts were "interpreting the regulation relative to the existing culture in their organizations without grasping the implications of their actions." Their report concluded by recommending continued emphasis on educating everyone on these processes.

The recent realignment of the Honolulu District is intended to make possible the implementation of these concepts. Over the next several months, the District leadership will review our policies and processes so that our organization can become as great as the talent of the people within it. I encourage your participation in this effort so that the District can reach its full potential for service to our customers: the warfighters of the Army and Air Force and the citizens who inhabit Hawaii and elsewhere in the Pacific.

Mahalo and best wishes to you and your family for a great Spring season.

Patriotism...

Continued from page 4

the latest sex scandal.

Where have we come from? The country as a whole knows or cares little of history or how we got where we are today. There are those who deny that the holocaust even happened. If we don't understand the past, how prepared are we for the future? Which do we care more about? Titillating sex issues or who has control of MIRV missiles aimed directly at our cities?

Are our moral standards changing to the point where many rely on a shrink or a lawyer just to keep them out of the mental hospital or jail? And as long as you're not committed or in prison everything is okay? It seems to me we're allowing legal matters to obscure our vision when it comes to moral matters.

Balancing this at the other end of the spectrum is the U.S. military system of justice. Virtually all human behaviors are addressed by the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and consequences are clearly defined and decisive.

Both civilians and military feel they occupy the moral high ground. Both, unfortunately, can provide examples of injustice where the system failed and both have caused people to stray from the centerline. Which is preferable?

I can remember vividly when just to be accused of something meant that you were bringing shame on yourself, your family and, under certain conditions, your country. Honor, and particularly, family honor meant something. Increasingly, honor has been overshadowed by fame. Little distinguishes infamy from fame.

It just seems to me that there's a relationship here between how we conduct ourselves as individuals, how we feel about ourselves as a nation, and how strong we would be in the face of adversity. I felt that much of my father's strength came from having survived things beyond most imaginations—he could easily have died in the war, an operation on his leg using a spoon as the surgical instrument kept him alive—but, he had to have a certain amount of spiritual strength going in, or he never would have made it far enough to come out.

The big question in my mind, however, is do we need to become militaristic as a nation in order to instill a sense of pride in its citizens? I don't think so, but its tempting because it seems so simple. For, in patriotism seems to lie the secret for correctly assigning our higher priorities and doing away with injustices. One thing endures, though, there is a generation gap and it's out of sight. We're not at war. Maybe we should be. Al Capp once said it in his old Pogo cartoon... "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

—Dave Smith is a civil engineer with HED, Schofield Resident Office.